

## THE

## CHINA



## MAIL.

VOL. XXII. No. 1130.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 1866.

PRICE, \$15 PER ANNUM.



## OFFICIAL NOTIFICATIONS.

It is hereby notified that, until further orders, the *Evening Mail*, *China Mail*, and *Overland China Mail* will be the official mediums of all Notifications proceeding from Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate at Canton.

D. B. ROBERTSON,  
Consul.

It is hereby notified that, until further orders the *Evening Mail*, *China Mail* and *Overland China Mail* will be the official mediums of all Notifications proceeding from Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate at Amoy.

British Consulate,  
Canton, 16th April, 1866.

R. SWINHOE,  
Consul.

## INTIMATIONS.

## "CHINA MAIL" OFFICE.

PUBLISHED AT THIS OFFICE,  
NO. 2 WYNDHAM STREET,  
BACK OF THE CLUB.

1. THE EVENING MAIL  
A DAILY PAPER.

PRICE.—\$2 per Month.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.—First insertion, Ten lines and under \$1; each additional line, 10 cents. Subsequent insertions, per Week, 50 cents and 5 cents. ("AUCTION" Notices are excepted, for which only one charge per week is made.)

## 2. THE CHINA MAIL.

AN ORIGINAL WEEKLY PAPER.

(EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT.)

PRICE.—\$15 per Annum; Single Copies, 44 cents.

ADVERTISING.—Same as *Evening Mail*. THE CHINA MAIL HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY ENLARGED IN SIZE, namely from 4 to 6 full pages. It is the only weekly paper published in China which contains a complete summary of Hongkong news as well as that from the treaty ports of China and Japan, and from Manila, Australia, India and the Straits. Its circulation, which has of late considerably increased, extends throughout the coasts of those countries as well as to various parts of Europe. Great facilities are thus afforded to Advertisers in this newspaper.

## 3. OVERLAND CHINA MAIL.

CONSISTING OF 8 FULL PAGES and containing the articles in the *Evening* and *China Mail* with Summary of News and Commercial Summary.

ONCE A FORTNIGHT.

THE MORNING OF THE MAILS DESPATCH. PRICE.—To Subscribers to the Weekly issue, \$8; to Non-subscribers, \$12. Single Copies 50 cents.

ADVERTISING.—The same as in the Weekly. All "NOTICE OF FIRMS" appearing in the Weekly will be inserted in the *Overland*, and charged for, unless otherwise ordered.

A. SHORTREDE & CO.  
Hongkong, 17th May, 1866.

## NOTICE.

MESSRS A. SHORTREDE & CO. would draw the attention of parties advertising to the facilities offered by the alterations lately made in the management of the firm for repetitions in Chinese of Notices respecting Shipping and Mercantile affairs generally.

## TERMS FOR ADVERTISING.

For the Current Week.  
If translated by Messrs SHORTREDE & CO. for the first fifty characters, beyond that number one cent per character.

If sent in already translated into Chinese 50 cents for the first fifty characters, beyond that number one cent per character.

Repetitions half-price.

Copperplate Bill Heads and Visiting Cards promptly and neatly executed. Paper and Envelopes embossed with Crests, Initials, &c.

A. SHORTREDE & CO.  
"China Mail" Office,  
Hongkong, January 25, 1866.

## NOTIFICATION.

In the Estate of the late JOHN CUFF HARPER, Surgeon, of Whampoa.

ALL PERSONS INDEBTED to the above Estate are requested to make payment, and those having CLAIMS against the same to send them in for record, to the Undersigned, pending reference to the executors named in the Will of the deceased.

H. F. HANCE.  
Vice-Consul.  
British Vice-Consulate,  
Whampoa, October 1, 1866.

Spanish Dollars; Six Months, in advance. Subscriptions will be taken a month before the expiry of the year; each additional Line, Twenty.

NOTICE OF FIRMS will be continued, reprinted.

Street, Seaton, Brown & Co., Fogg & Co., Manila, C. KARUTH.

NDHAM STREET, HONGKONG.

## MESSAGERIES IMPERIALES.



## COMPAGNIE DES SERVICES MARITIMES DES MESSAGERIES IMPERIALES.

## PARQUEBOTS POSTE-FRANCAIS.

## STEAM FOR

SAIGON, SINGAPORE, BATAVIA, POINT DE GALLE, ADEN, SUEZ, ALEXANDRIA, MES-SINA, MARSEILLES.

ALSO, BOMBAY, PONDICHERY, MADRAS, AND CALCUTTA.

ON THURSDAY, the 25th October, at 2 P.M., the Company's Steamship "TIGRE," Boiler Commandant, H. J. M. N., with Mails, Passengers, Specie, and Cargo, will leave this Port for the above places corresponding:

At SINGAPORE, with one of the Company's Steamers for Batavia.

At GALLE, with one of the British Indian Steam Navigation Company's Steamers for Bombay.

At ADEN, with the Company's Mail Steamer for Seychelles, Reunion and Mauritius.

At MESSINA, with the Company's Mail Steamer for all the Italian Ports.

Cargo and Specie will be registered for London as well as for Marseilles, and accepted in transit through Marseilles for the principal places of Europe.

The Company has authority to grant Insurance on all Cargo conveyed by its Vessels, at a premium of 1½% upon Merchandizes, and 1⅓% upon Treasure, from Hongkong to Lyons, Paris, London, and Holland, and proportionally for places this side of Suez.

Cargo will be received on board until 4 o'clock of the 23rd October, Specie and Parcels until 5 o'clock of the 24th.

A Written Declaration of Content and Value of the Packages destined beyond Suez is required by the Egyptian Government, and must be furnished by the Shippers to the Agent with the Bills of Lading; and the Company will not be responsible for any consequence or prejudice which may ensue from an incorrect declaration.

For particulars respecting Freight and Passage apply at the Company's Office, Queen's Road.

A. CONIL,  
Agent.

Hongkong, October 4, 1866.

## NOTICE.

THE following Cases are still unclaimed, and are lying in the "Messageries Imperiales" Parcel Room, at the risk and expense of the Consignees, who are requested to take immediate delivery:—

From Bombay.—  
N/M. 2 pieces and 1 Bundle Ivory.

From Marseilles.—  
Ex "Aphée."

No Address. 1 case Baggage.

L. (in diamond). 1 Case Books.

Ex "Tigre."

E. V. Y. O. 1 Hat Box.

Ex "Imperiale."

K. & Co., Meyer. 1 case Effects.

J. L. & Co., No. 11. 1 do. Glasware.

Ex "Hydaspe."

Address Mr. Emilie Ajeda, 1 Hat Box.

Ex "Donat."

Address Bulot. 1 Hat Box.

L. T. 221. 1 case Baggage.

Y. Ex "Cambridge."

Puscole Pustovethy. 1 case Preserves.

M. L. G. 1. 1 case Baggage.

Ex "Imperiale."

1 Parcel Books.

Ex "Tigre."

C.S.F. (in diamond) Nos. 1/11 11 cases.

W. (in diamond) 1 case Silk.

T. 77. 1 case Silk.

J. M. 1 case.

N. B. (in diamond) 91. 1 case Merchandise.

Don Santiago Perez. 1 case Books.

G. Bernard. 1 parcel Samples.

A. CONIL,  
Agent.

Hongkong, October 8, 1866.

## NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

## NOTICE.

ON and after the 12th October 1866, the Business of the NORTH CHINA INSURANCE COMPANY will be carried on at their Offices in the New premises, Queen's Road, adjoining the Bank of Hindostan, and opposite to Messrs Turner & Co. and the Borneo Company Limited.

The Company of course except the "risk of boats," &c., as covered by ordinary Marine Insurance.

With reference to the foregoing notice, it is hereby intimated that the Company's Godowns are not ready for the reception of Opium and other cargo for shipment in the Company's Steamers, under the same condition as stated above.

CHARLES MACKINTOSH,  
Agent N.C. Insurance Company.

Hongkong, October 11, 1866.

## NOTICE.

## NOTICE.

THE Partnership hitherto existing between Messrs JOSEPH OXFORD, HENRY DANZIGER, JACOB ARNHOLD and ALEXANDER COSMAN LEVYSOHN has this day been dissolved by mutual consent.

Outstanding accounts will be settled by either of the Partners, who will henceforth sign the firm in liquidation.

OXFORD & CO.

Hongkong, China, September 11, 1866.

WITH reference to the above business hitherto carried on by Messrs OXFORD & CO., at Hongkong and Canton will be continued by the undersigned, who have this day established themselves as Merchants and Commission Agents under the firm of,

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.

J. ARNHOLD.

A. C. LEVYSOHN.

P. KARBERG.

Hongkong, September 11, 1866.

## NOTICE.

## NOTICE.

THE Interest and Responsibility of Mr ELDER HALTON in our Firm ceased on the 30th June last, and Mr JAMES PENDER DUNCANSON was admitted a Partner on the 1st July.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.

Hongkong, January 1, 1866.

## NOTICE.

## NOTICE.

MR JOSEPH KRUMMENACHER was from the 1st July 1866, admitted a Partner in my Firm which henceforth will be carried on under the Style and Name of

SANDER & CO.

F. SANDER.

Hongkong, September 24, 1866.

## NOTICES OF FIRMS.

## NOTICE.

MR JOSEPH KRUMMENACHER was from the 1st July 1866, admitted a Partner in my Firm which henceforth will be carried on under the Style and Name of

SANDER & CO.

## NOTICE.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION having been granted to the undersigned under the Seal of the Probate Court of Hongkong, the 7th day of August, A.D. 1866, in the Estate of the Late HENRY NOBLE. All persons having CLAIMS against the Estate are requested to send them in as early as possible, and all persons INDEBTED to the said Estate are requested to pay to him the Accounts without delay.

DANIEL JUDSON & SON,

LONDON.

Order Judge's Victoria Dyes through

Merchant in England.

MAX. FISCHER,

Administrator.

Hongkong, August 8, 1866.

## NOTICE.

## NOTICE.

WE have this day established ourselves at this Port, as General and Commission Merchants, under the Style and Firm of MELCHERS & CO.

BERMANN MELCHERS,

ADOLF ANDRE.

Office No. 4, Graham St., near Q's Road.

Hongkong, August 1, 1866.

## NOTICE.

I HAVE this day retired from the Business heretofore carried on by me in favor of my Nephew Mr JOHN STEWARD LAPRAIK.

D. LAPRAIK.

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**THE CHINA MAIL.**  
PUBLISHED WEEKLY.  
HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 1866.

**MARRIAGE.**

At the Roman Catholic Cathedral, by the Revd. Father Progras, on the 1st October, Mrs. Catherine, the wife of John Wilson, Colonial Chaplain, HENRY JOHN CARR, of Hongkong, to ELIZA WINSTON, late of Manchester, England.

**DEATHS.**

At the Gaol Hospital, Hongkong, on the 1st October, WILLIAM SMITH, Seaman, unemployed.

At the Gaol Hospital, Hongkong, on the 1st October, JAMES BROWN, Seaman, on board the ship *Ferntree*, on the 2nd Oct., EDWARD JOHNSON, Seaman.

At the German Hospital, Hongkong, on the 2nd Oct., GEORGE BROWNE, Engineer, aged 26 years.

At the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, on the 5th October, CHARLES MUELLER, Seaman, unemployed.

On board the ship *St. George*, Capt. JAMES MELVILLE, Seaman, M.D., aged 25 years.

At Hongkong, on the 5th October, HARRY WHITE, Quartermaster, H.M.S. *Saturnus*, aged 28 years, found drowned.

At the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, on the 11th October, RICHARD CHALMERS, Seaman, unemployed, aged 26 years.

**ECHOES OF THE WEEK.**

The rumour of hostile feelings provoked at Peking by the ostentations building of a French Roman Catholic Church in close proximity to the Imperial palace, referred to by our Tientsin correspondent in the last issue of the *China Mail*, is corroborated by reports current among the native traders here and at Canton, whose version of the affair runs to the effect that the French have demanded Yuen-ming-yuen as the site for a Cathedral. From the rapid dissemination of these reports it is evident that deep feelings are entertained on the subject by the Chinese, and from the fact that they have reached Chinese circles at a distance of more than a thousand miles from the capital they may be considered as based upon fact.

An amusing extract which we give below, from the N. C. *Daily News*, will tend to shew how far the Chinese in Canton have profited by the knowledge of foreigners falsely supposed by some to have been spread abroad by the intercourse which has lately subsisted between them:

"The doom of foreign residents (says the *North China Daily News*) in China is evidently sealed. A *jehad* has been proclaimed against them in Hunan, and they are to be swept from the face of the Flower Land. Their country is fifty thousand li from China, beyond a triple ocean; from that distance their lives cannot be avenged, so the village elders are invited to collect the populations to exterminate them. This is the purport of an address, that has been extensively circulated through Hunan and the adjacent provinces; whether emanating from a too enthusiastic patriot or from a tea-man who has made a bad bargain, it is difficult to determine. In either case it has obtained wide notoriety. Feeling, of course, quite careless as to its origin or effect, foreigners will still, peruse the proclamation itself. Their presence in Foh-kien and Chekeang, in Kiangsoo and Shantung, and above all their invasion of the metropolis, is galling certainly; but their subversion of the morals of the people by inculcating a new religion, is insisted on as the great grievance. Those who have come to propagate religion, enticing and deluding the ignorant masses, are the prominent objects of attack. We are evidently indebted in a great measure to missionary teaching for the sweeping denunciations in the proclamation, and the exhortations to indiscriminate massacre which it conveys."

The *Recorder* has some sensible remarks on the present state of officialdom in China. We extract a few sentences which make us congratulate ourselves that we in Hongkong have not to deal with Chinese authorities. Really the contemptible policy pursued by us for the last few years in giving way on almost every conceivable topic is likely to land us in a fine place at last. The *Recorder* says:—

"Nearly eighteen months have elapsed since a number of merchants, who had sent funds hence into the interior for the preparation and purchase of teas, had their property plundered from them by revolted braves at Tsin-wung-heen, and not one cent of the losses has as yet been made good to them. Application to the British Consul only results in the information that the local authorities have been ordered by the Foreign Board at Peking, to look into the claims in communication with the Consul, and to report in how far they are valid and need to be entertained, but that the Viceroy insists upon satisfying himself in the first instance by preliminary investigations to be made upon the spot, and that until these shall have been brought to a conclusion, he will not consent to the Taotac's entering upon the subject with the Consul. The latter functionary repeatedly enquired whether the preliminary investigations are approaching a close, and has as often been put off by a vague reply. It is a fair subject of speculation how it comes to pass that claims apparently so well founded, and pressed by so potent a power as H. M. Minister at Peking, are not only not paid by the Chinese Government, after a lapse of more than twelve months, but are absolutely not entertained by their executive, notwithstanding that the necessary injunctions

have been given for a thorough investigation into them. The truth is, we believe, that a Chinese mandarin is a Chinese mandarin all over China, no matter what his rank or sphere of action, and that a prime minister at Peking, is, in his proclivity to deceive, shuffle, and evade, as a general principle, and shirk his obligations where a foreigner is concerned, as a special instinct, the very counterpart of the lowest magistrate of any provincial district."

There may be some truth in this latter sentence, but we fancy our own authorities are somewhat to blame for the dilatory manner in which they press claims upon the Chinese government. Had we a man of action at Peking we might do something, but alas! our representative lives upon the credit of past vigour. One comfort is that his masterly inaction will lead us into another war, which will precipitate the settlement of matters in full. Otherwise we have but a dreary look out.

The *Recorder* also gives utterance to a doleful lament over the altered condition of the "model settlement." Quoth our lugubrious contemporary: "It is indeed to be feared that the days of Shanghai glory have passed away, never to return. Hope deferred has indeed made the heart sick. Year after year the residents in this place fondly imagined they had arrived at the worst; but each year has proved worse than its predecessor, and the rapid strides in prosperity and importance which it was thought would cause Shanghai to outrival Calcutta have proved to be but an evanescent dream. The bubble has burst and has been followed by a long train of disasters from which it must take us a very long time to recover." We hope things are not quite so bad at Shanghai as this extract seems to indicate.

So much for Shanghai.

From NANKING native reports come to hand speak of disturbances among the soldiery in the provincial capital. After having dissipated their wages in gambling, the men have taken to squeezing and robbing the inhabitants, with a view to recruit their funds. The viceroy has beheaded 54 men convicted of this eccentricity.

The residents at Hankow are beginning to turn their attention to recreation; now that dry land has returned and drill, rifle-shooting, fives, cricket and par-hunting are alluded to by the *Hankow Times*, with the remark that there is little doubt they "will manage to exist and be tolerably jolly, notwithstanding their isolation," and the derision of Shanghai friends, who say there is nothing worth living for in Hankow.

From the Coast ports there is little of interest. A sad list of wrecks comes to us from Formosa. At other places everything seems quiet.

In Hongkong there is nothing of special interest to report except the audience granted to the Chinese deputation against the Stamp Act and other ordinances. The Governor's answer is a masterpiece—conceituous where answer is due to any reasonable representations; but stern and English—English of the time when England was feared by other nations—in the way it deals with the rascaldom which would make the ignorant masses, are the prominent objects of attack. We are evidently indebted in a great measure to missionary teaching for the sweeping denunciations in the proclamation, and the exhortations to indiscriminate massacre which it conveys."

Before handing his reply to the Deputation the Governor took measures to impress upon its members the propriety of observing the same Rules as to presentation of Memorials and Addresses, as were imposed on Residents in other Colonies. The misstatements which had had general currency relative to the brief interview on the 5th ultime, sufficiently proved the impropriety of departing from the usual practice in such cases. The reply was then handed to the deputation by His Excellency—printed both in English and Chinese.

Murders have become unpleasantly frequent here of late, three having taken place in as many weeks. The Laha pirates are, as yet, mostly at large but strong hopes are entertained of catching them.

The shipping branch of the Harbour Master's department has been transferred to the Sailor's Home, much we hope to the advantage of that institution.

We understand that yesterday His Excellency gave audience to the Commissioner Pin-ta lo ye, and Mr Secretary Bowra, on their return from their European travels. The interview was a very cordial one, on both sides, we are informed. The Commissioner is now en route to Pekin to lay before the Emperor the result of his mission. We hope his report will gain publicity.

A proclamation has been issued at Canton by the Viceroy and Governor, admonishing the inhabitants of certain interior districts against the crime of infanticide, and urging the establishment of local asylums for Foundlings on the model of that at Canton. The Chinese troops intended to suppress the row now going on between the Hoa-ka and the Piu-ti clans left Canton on the 6th. If they fight as "imposingly", as they look the disturbed district will very soon be quieted so far as the rows between the turbulent clans are concerned.

At Macao the coolie business is in a flourishing state. Three vessels have ere

this left since the present season has opened with their living freights for Havana and Peru, and 23 ships are now on the berth. Giving each vessel an average of 350 Coolies, no less than upwards of 9100 Chinamen will be despatched within the next two or three months to the West Coast of South America and Cuba alone. Quite a number of laborers will probably also leave during the present year for Demerara and Trinidad.

**THE MINT AND THE COINAGE.**

The Commission appointed to decide upon the fortunes of the Mint—for such is virtually their office if their recommendations be attended to—have a question of vast importance with which to deal. We do not allude to the effects of the Mint's continuance or abolition, so far as Hongkong itself is concerned, though to colonists that question is quite sufficient to give matter for reflection and conversation for some time. The real importance of the Hongkong mint, looked up from a broader point of view than that merely concerning the revenues of the colony, lies in the effect it is to have upon China and Japan generally.

So true is this that it may safely be asserted that, as far as Hongkong itself is concerned, there is no difficulty which cannot be got over by compulsory legislation. Granted that outsiders refuse to receive the new dollar, it would be much the same as the present system amongst inland Chinese of preferring sycee to Mexican dollars. And soon as the Chinese discover that the new dollar contains, as it does, half a penny weight more of pure silver than the standard Mexican of 7.17, it will be accepted as bullion quite as readily. To ensure this however the Chinese demand the right of defacing it at pleasure—drilling holes in, punching, filing and otherwise spoiling the appearance of Her Majesty's face and its smoking-cap surroundings, to the loss both of look and value. Once make the exchange of old for new dollars compulsory, without forbidding the chop, and the new coins in a more or less defaced state would rapidly be absorbed into the circulation. The first practical difficulty which meets one is, however, the question—"Given the compulsory law—given the requisite quantity of bullion and Mexicans for conversion into new dollars and the requisite coining power at the mint—who is to pay the cost of the conversion?" A compulsory law could of course only extend to making people exchange Mexicans at the intrinsic value. This done the Mint has gained nothing, and the charge of conversion has yet to be provided for. It has been suggested that the dollars called in should come only through the Colonial treasury; the question is, will the seigniorage on coining silver bullion pay the expense both of coining that bullion, and called in Mexicans? If the question be confined to Hongkong alone, the warmest supporters of the Mint must emphatically answer "No." The Mint can only be worked at a profit by obtaining so large an amount to coin with seigniorage, that the money thus earned will cover both its expenses for coining such bullion, as well as those incurred for the conversion of the Mexicans now in circulation into new and lawful Hongkong dollars.

The only way in which the Mint can thus be made a paying establishment is by securing for it a large amount of external business. To this end the coin must be made popular amongst the Chinese, so that it shall be sought after on account of its intrinsic value and freedom from liability to debasement or imitation. But a few days since we published the opinions given by some well known experts amongst the Chinese, and would to those remarks only add a practical suggestion which may be of use. The Chinese complain, as we said, that the new dollar can be both debased and imitated. Very well, let a couple of dollars be handed to two of the most expert silver smiths here and at Canton, say Lee Ching and Hoa Ching for example, with instructions to engage the services of the cleverest "smashers" or coiners whom they can get hold of. Tell them that no questions will be asked, and that a moderate expense will not be grudged on condition of their bringing back within a specified time four other dollars—two debased and two spurious, which will deceive the eye and touch of ordinarily intelligent shroffs when handed to them mixed with other dollars. If their experiment is successful, a first step will have been taken to discover the weak points of the present coin, and the next would be to ascertain what peculiarities in coining present the greatest difficulties to these ingenious ge-

niots. We lay much stress on this matter from a conviction that the Mint can only succeed from its dollars being accepted readily by the Chinese. The Government is hardly likely to undertake the task of recovering the present Mexicans at its own cost, trusting to chance that a coin avowedly unpopular will hereafter become a necessity in China. We have of course written on the presumption that the Mint will be made equal to any demands upon its powers, but as this is only a matter of mechanical detail it does not seem to call for any special remark. If it can be proved that it will pay to coin dollars, machinery can easily be provided.

We find the following paragraph in the *Straits Times* of September 22:—"Captain Mauer of the Brauner barque *Isabell*, reports having spoken the British barque *Bessie Stanton*, of London, Captain Cole, from Newport bound to Hongkong, 104 days out; crew consisting of Turks, Americans and Greeks in iron for mutton." Some of the crew, it is meant, are in iron if all were in that position the arrival of the *Bessie Stanton* would be indefinitely extended.

**THE CHINESE AND THE ORDINANCES.**

The Governor's reply to the Chinese deputation who on Saturday presented their various objections to the ordinances, ought to convince the Chinese residents that obedience to English legislation is an indispensable condition of their living and carrying on business here. We need not supplement His Excellency's reply by any observations of our own. It marks a turning point in the policy which has for some years past been observed towards China, and being therefore elevated above the region of ordinary common place topics, is of state paper of unusual significance, for the Chinese Government to consider, and for the instruction of home politicians who are under the erroneous impression that the interests of Great Britain in this quarter of the world can be protected or promoted by measures that obtain among the more civilized communities of other countries. It is obvious now that the feeling the Chinese here have lately manifested against recent legislation, does not spring from mere apprehension about the Stamp Act, but from dread of the consequences which are contemplated by other ordinances. It is known that His Excellency is in earnest in his declared intention to suppress piracy and to bring under proper subordination the large Chinese population of the island. When this is effected, the Chinese government may be asked to perform their part of the mutual obligations imposed by the Treaty in respect of piracy, and of other nefarious practices common among the Chinese. That is a duty which they have hitherto avoided, but one result of His Excellency's uncompromising firmness will probably be the recognition of their responsibility, and perhaps an attempt to observe it, especially as the governor of the Provinces of Kwautung and Kwangsi has given his formal approval of the measures to which the Chinese have expressed an objection. Of one thing (His Excellency remarks) they may be certain, that as soon as these measures are proclaimed to be law, those who disobey them will be punished. Public opinion here is entirely with His Excellency in the steps the local government have adopted; we have not the slightest doubt that the home government will endorse his action, in which case Sir Richard MacDonald will have the gratification of knowing that under his direction foreign commerce on the Chinese seas will be rendered safer, and the lesson effectively taught to the Chinese cabinet that treaties with foreign powers must not be disregarded by them. Too much toleration of Chinese prejudices for the sake of trade is a fault that requires a strong remedy, which we believe is provided in the ordinances for which we have to thank His Excellency; and if force should become necessary to impress it on the Chinese, to make them understand it, why force should be employed.

We find that our houses are to be inspected by a Medical Officer and if found dirty we are to be fined or imprisoned. A great number of the houses are inhabited by the wives and families of Merchants and it is for their own interest to keep their houses clean. If a Medical Officer is to be constantly coming into our houses and inspecting them he will alarm the inmates and especially the female portion thereof.

If every Junk that comes goes out of the Harbour is to report herself and to give a correct description of her cargo and passengers, and is not to be allowed to leave till an appointed hour, we consider that this will cause a great hindrance to trade. These last two Regulations will cause the greatest inconvenience and at the same time bring a very small Revenue.

We humbly think that Your Excellency's wish in the Government of the Colony is to protect the good and punish the bad. If a Revenue is to be collected by the imposition of the taxes in these Ordinances, it will bring the greatest hardship to the poor who have only their labor would, under your plan, be soon made to bear your legitimate burden, because if rates were increased, you would charge more for rent. The new Ordinance therefore is more just than you.

When your Honorable Government wishes to raise a Revenue it always carefully considers what is the best thing to lay a tax upon. We beg to suggest that money may be raised by laying a tax on house rent and ground rent. We the Merchants and Traders of Hongkong, have thought right to come forward in a body to humbly beg that Your Excellency in consideration of the difficulties of trade will annul these new ordinances, and thus meet the wishes of the Merchants and quiet their minds. With regard to imposing a tax on ground rent and house rent we will avail yourself of your Excellency's decision as to whether it shall take effect or not.

If Your Excellency thinks fit to grant our prayer we will unite together in returning thanks for Your Excellency's kindness.

Submitted to His Excellency the Governor.

Hongkong, 5th September, 1866.  
Stamped with the Seals of Chinese Merchantile house and Shops.

Before handing his reply to the Deputation His Excellency stated that, with a view to prevent future misapprehensions, he must impress on all Chinese Residents the importance of observing the same Rules as to presentation of Memorials and Addresses, as were imposed on Residents in other Colonies. Those Rules require a copy of every Memorial intended for presentation to be first sent to the proper officer, with a request that a day might be named for its reception. It was obvious that much inconvenience must otherwise result from presenting addresses without notice. The misstatements which had led to general currency relative to the brief interview of His Excellency with the memorials on the 5th ultime, sufficiently proved the impropriety of departing from the usual practice in such cases. The following reply was then handed to the deputation by His Excellency—printed both in English and Chinese.

Kept by His Excellency  
When you waited on me with a Memorial on the 5th of last month I told you I was sorry you had not brought a translation of it with you. I afterwards got that version was incorrect. We therefore present it in the form in which it will be preserved as an historical document:—

To HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF HONGKONG.

The Petition of all the Merchants of Hongkong, viz: Gold and Silver Dealers, Rice Factors, Opium Sellers, Traders with the North and South of China, and Dealers in Piece Goods—

HUMBLY SWEATH:

That since the new Ordinance is an obstructive and inconvenient one, we have joined together to humbly beg Your Excellency to do us the favor of altogether annulling it and making up the deficiency in the Revenue instead by a tax which is to be imposed on all Chinese subjects.

As to presentation of Memorials and Addresses, as were imposed on Residents in other Colonies. Those Rules require a copy of every Memorial intended for presentation to be first sent to the proper officer, with a request that a day might be named for its reception. It was obvious that much inconvenience must otherwise result from presenting addresses without notice.

The misstatements which had led to general currency relative to the brief interview of His Excellency with the memorials on the 5th ultime, sufficiently proved the impropriety of departing from the usual practice in such cases.

Looking at the various kinds of trades carried on all sides, and the very extensive Commerce of this Colony, we find therein trades which are brisk and trades which are dull.

Within late years the profits of trade have been very small—in many cases the yearly expenditure in shops and house rent, servants' wages and food, is greater than the profits of the Chinese.

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ever, a "Stamp on Receipts, Promissory Notes" would be the burden" and "perplexing," say with more truth that others—which every one now—“are perplexing and cause different distances and quite a great variety of letter cases by the new Ordinance of Stamp is necessary for those transactions, which occur the current of ordinary mercies, such as Promissory Notes, Receipts, Bills of Lading

and every merchant keep in his supply of the Stamped Paper required for each of those transacted as the stamp is to be applied as to be perplexed by a man? I cannot believe what is

many thousands of Chinese at here they have a Stamp Act names as many complications as the short and simple Ordinance you complain here. Why

I think they will reply that it as well as Europeans, they would rather have t they would greatly prefer Ordinance to the Singapore

sing that you find at first as to Stamps on Leases, conveyances, there is seldom used them as there often is whilst, being generally managerial advice, it is not true ent daily business will be im-

over, to pay an increased instead of a Stamp Duty. Is

Houses, which now pay more per annum, should bear all the general business of the place contributed anything directly. Now, under the Stamp

those who have no chance of by business will pay nothing, have only their labor would, soon be made to bear the burden, because if rates, you would charge more for new Ordinance therefore is you. It also reaches in its

you, though not residing yet use Hongkong in their business, whereas your plan on those who accidentally re-

the cost of maintaining the Police and Harbor, which

facilitate the business of absent

as of residents.

new Law comes into force I find in less than one month and apprehensions were

it experience shows that the

law can be made more

easy, I shall readily assist to

you, especially to remember, viz., that there is no connection whatever between the Stamp Ordinance and the other laws to which you allude. The

Stamp Ordinance is passed to increase the Revenue of the Colony. The other laws

are intended to improve the Police Regula-

tions and health of the City. The Colony

will have to, expense for these purposes

nearly 28,000 Dollars per annum, which can

it can possibly receive under those laws.

One thing I wish you especially to

remember, viz., that there is no connection

whatever between the Stamp Ordinance and the other laws to which you allude. The

Stamp Ordinance is passed to increase the

Revenue of the Colony. The other laws

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tions and health of the City. The Colony

will have to, expense for these purposes

nearly 28,000 Dollars per annum, which can

it can possibly receive under those laws.

I believe however that the money will be

well spent, and that you will find the tow

both a safer and healthier residence; so

much so, that I hope your business will

proportionately increase and your property

here become more valuable. Is too much,

if I ask and expect you yourselves to aid me

in accomplishing these benefits, and to dis-

ist from spreading unfounded rumors of

the intentions and provisions of the recent

Ordinances!

Of one thing be certain, that, as soon as

they are proclaimed to be the law, those

who disobey them will be punished.

THE FRENCH IN CHINA.

THE news recently brought from the

North confirms the report, to which we

gave currency a few days ago, of disrup-

tions having arisen at Peking between

the French representative and the Chinese

authorities. Even with this corroboration

of the rumours mentioned by our Tientsin

correspondent, we are incredulous as to

any serious cause of anxiety having arisen

on the grounds stated, although believing

it to be quite possible that "a difficulty,"

magnified by the voice of popular report,

has occurred. Exaggerated or not, how-

ever, the news is sufficiently important as

regards our interests in China to make it

worth while to consider the present as-

pect of affairs in the North.

The representatives of Foreign nations

now present in Peking—those of Great

Britain, America, France, Prussia, Russia

and (possibly) Spain—have hitherto ad-

hered, outwardly at least, to the political

role inaugurated by our own Government.

This is a few words may be defined as a

moral support to the present Manchu gov-

ernment—a disclaiming of any ideas of

annexation—and a stately in conducting

diplomatic business equalled only by the

conduct observed between the foremost

European states. When China has plead-

ed that this or that act would result in

effects calculated to weaken either the

prestige of actual power of the central go-

vernment, the excuse has, except in vital

cases, been allowed to stand good. Violat-

ions of treaty on the part of subordinate

officials have been condoned on the ap-

pearance of the most feeble efforts on the

part of the Chinese authorities to undo or

negate the evil thus committed; and in

short, the policy followed by all charged with

the administration of diplomatic affairs has

been to avoid pressing matters which

should rightly be carried out to their ful-

lest extent, in order to prevent the neces-

sity of armed intervention. The one sole

object in view has apparently been to sup-

port the present dynasty, in the hope that

one free from danger of internal rebellion

and external aggression, the Chinese Gov-

ernment would become sufficiently en-

lightened to carry out in their integrity

those engagements into which its agents,

under the pressure of an invading force,

entered some six years since.

Such has been, we say, avowedly the

policy pursued by the representatives of

the European nations now enjoying full

treaty rights with China. Avowedly,

but not in reality. Russia, while pre-

serving a most peaceful policy diplomatic-

ally, has contrived to appropriate since

the "rectification" of her frontier in 1860,

the southern half of Saghalien, unchecked

by China and Japan, both of whom claim

in a misty sort of way jurisdiction over

the territory thus questionably acquired.

The claims of China are hardly of a na-

ture to warrant its engaging in active

strife with a powerful nation, to prevent

their annexing this nominal portion of the

Empire. Japan, which we believe claims

a kind of suzerainty over this territory,

cares perhaps more, but can afford still

home of men of all nations, unaccustomed to the forms of British Government, unacquainted with and indifferent to British politics, and intent only on making fortunes by trade at the cheapest and speediest rate. That there are instances of men, who have recognised their honourable obligations to the place—who have

less, to question the right of the intruders, the more so as she holds it under a sort of feudal obligation to China. So that Russia has little to fear from either. Thus much for the pacific intentions of that power towards China, as matters now stand.

The attitude assumed by France, though hitherto less demonstratively aggressive, is, however, fraught with greater danger to the Chinese empire than that of Russia. She has long been known to have had her eye upon Shantung, and that it has not been already "annexed" and "colonized," is simply owing to the persistent way in which Great Britain has hitherto refused to endorse any course of action likely to result in the territorial aggrandisement of her neighbour, ally, and most dangerous

rival. To compass by presumably fair means what other nations have prevented her obtaining in defiance of treaty and international law, has for years past been the aim of French diplomats, and now, if the reports we hear from the North be true, an opportunity has arisen. Nothing would delight France more than to have an opportunity of holding a "territorial guarantee" for the fulfilment some impossible for at least difficult conditions, which a quarrel with China might give her the chance of imposing upon that power; and the demand for a cession of land in some locality which would render it absolutely impossible for that power to accede to her views would offer a most favourable chance. We are of course speaking merely on the intelligence given us by the Northern papers. That the report is based on truth there is little doubt, and few who have watched the course of French policy in the East will be disposed to feel astonishment therat. For our part we should scarcely grudge the French the cession for which they are absolutely seeking, did not such a step threaten the integrity of the empire to which we have hitherto afforded so much moral support.

To accede to such a proposition would be a simple nullification of the policy

which we have at so much cost to ourselves preserved since the last treaty was ratified.

If the report be true, the action taken by our representative must necessarily be of the utmost importance to our commercial relations with the empire, and viewed in such a light, we at Hongkong cannot remain uninterested spectators.

If it be false, so much the better for China;

but that our sunrises of the ultimate intentions of France are as we represent them, we have ample assurance.

#### COOLIE EMIGRATION AND CHINESE CONSULS.

The recent report of the Emigration Commissioners published in the *London and China Express* contains many interesting facts and suggestions. It is of course to China that the Report is chiefly interesting to Hongkong and the Viceroy of Canton are worthy of more than passing remark. We refer to the following paragraph, which shews that a lively and sensible interest in the question is being taken by the high authorities.

"The importance (say the Commissioners) of obtaining Chinese evidence as to the results of the emigration has been urged on the British Embassy by the Prince of Kung, and on Her Majesty's Consul at Canton by the Viceroy of the two Kwangs. The Prince of Kung with this view proposes to despatch a Chinese officer to visit the colonies to which Chinese emigrate, and to report on their condition. The Viceroy suggests that the emigrants themselves should combine to send back some of their number to give the result of their experience. There can be no doubt that the information which would be obtained by either of these courses would be most valuable, as an encouragement to the emigration of a respectable class of labourers, and it might be good policy in the colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad to send back some of the Chinese emigrants for the purpose of making known the advantages held out to labourers in those colonies. At present the Chinese feel a natural distrust of a system the results of which they have no means of ascertaining."

The above demonstrates in the strongest manner that the Prince Regent and his deputy in Kwangtung look with anything but indifference upon the fate of the thousands who now annually find their way from China to other parts of the world. The Prince's proposal however would only half meet the necessities of the case. To send a "visiting" Mandarin on a roving commission to the West Indies would very probably result in anything but his obtaining a trustworthy report of the actual state of affairs; while even if, in general terms, the information he obtained was correct, individual cases of hardship must remain unnoticed. We do

not mean that there crying Chinese grievances constantly to be redressed in the British West Indies; but small affairs constantly arise in the best regulated colonies, between pure colonists and aliens, in which the interposition of judicial power is necessary. Why should not this evident feeling in favor of a sort of supervision over immigrants on the part of its own officials, be taken advantage of to urge the Chinese government to establish regular Consuls at the more important places to which emigrants are sent? The idea of a Chinese Consul almost raises a smile, but it is an undoubted fact that any step tending to break down that barrier of insulation, behind which China has for so many years remained, to her own detriment, would be beneficial. Additional confidence would be given to the better class Chinese to avail themselves of the advantages of emigration provided of course that they were convinced of the honesty of the officials appointed to that port. Were they however no better or no worse than the average of Chinese officials in China itself, it would still be something to have a court of appeal against injustice in which their language and habits would be thoroughly understood. With the humanizing influence

of a new judicial atmosphere—the certainty that detection in underhand practices would lead to disgrace, and the absence of native society to keep up the old traditional ideas respecting "lawful" bribery, with the absolute prohibition of any exercise of arbitrary power in the way of flogging or torture, a Chinese official in such a position might do much for the good of his countrymen. He would possess but small power for harm as every act would have to be carried out through the British executive and with these restrictions the idea might prove feasible.

Whether or not such a proposition would be favourably received by the Spanish, Peruvian, Dutch and other powers is a question which we cannot of course answer. Judging from what we hear, the Chinese immigrants, under those powers are not seen to be absolutely ill treated, but it is complained that once there, they are carefully prevented from returning:

"The attitude assumed by France, though hitherto less demonstratively aggressive, is, however, fraught with greater danger to the Chinese empire than that of Russia. She has long been known to have had her eye upon Shantung, and that it has not been already "annexed" and "colonized," is simply owing to the persistent way in which Great Britain has hitherto refused to endorse any course of action likely to result in the territorial aggrandisement of her neighbour, ally, and most dangerous rival. To compass by presumably fair means what other nations have prevented her obtaining in defiance of treaty and international law, has for years past been the aim of French diplomats, and now, if the reports we hear from the North be true, an opportunity has arisen. Nothing would delight France more than to have an opportunity of holding a "territorial guarantee" for the fulfilment some impossible for at least difficult conditions, which a quarrel with China might give her the chance of imposing upon that power; and the demand for a cession of land in some locality which would render it absolutely impossible for that power to accede to her views would offer a most favourable chance. We are of course speaking merely on the intelligence given us by the Northern papers. That the report is based on truth there is little doubt, and few who have watched the course of French policy in the East will be disposed to feel astonishment therat. For our part we should scarcely grudge the French the cession for which they are absolutely seeking, did not such a step threaten the integrity of the empire to which we have hitherto afforded so much moral support.

To accede to such a proposition would be a simple nullification of the policy

which we have at so much cost to ourselves preserved since the last treaty was ratified.

would be obvious that this arrangement would enable the deviant of the compass to be duly tested.

Evening Mail, Oct. 1.

The expenditure on the telegraph in the Australian colonies is as follows:—Victorian lines and stations, £248,996 £s. 1d.; New South Wales (lines only) to the end of 1864, £132,025 18s. 3d.; South Australian lines and buildings, £28,175 19s. 3d. The figures for Queensland are not available, the cost will be about £50 per mile, or in round numbers about £50,000, exclusive of stations. The first line in Victoria was opened in 1854; there are now in work in that colony 2,517 miles, along which there were sent last year 210,777 private messages, value £34,770, and 68,946 on public service, value £11,546. The year's profit, after paying expenses, was £9,497. The Adelaide *Express*, from which we gather the above particulars, states that the Rangoon and Singapore section of the line to Australia is to be laid immediately, that a line is being constructed by the Dutch Government through Sumatra, with a view to connect Singapore and Batavia, and that the question of connecting the eastern part of Java with Timor is also under the consideration of the Netherlands Government. All these links are in the electric chain that will soon, we hope, unite Hongkong to the other colonies in the East and South.

Evening Mail, Oct. 10.

It appears that there is no truth in the statement of some of the London newspapers that the savages of New Caledonia killed, cooked, and eat the crew of a boat the Fulton, French iron steamer that they in retaliation, burned down several cottages. Letters to the 6th of June have arrived in France from those islands, and they make no mention of any such event which was said to have occurred prior to that date.

Evening Mail, Oct. 10.

The Administration of Lighthouses in France announces that towers have been constructed on the reefs in the vicinity of the Ile de Noirmoutier. They are about 14 feet above high water, and are painted in different colours.

Evening Mail, Oct. 10,

#### VISIT TO CANTON.

October, 1865.

#### CHAP. II.

#### A STROLL ABOUT THE SUBURBS.

A practice prevails in Canton of taking breakfast at noon. This custom was originally introduced by Lord Elgin at Shanghai, and here in Canton it is in full force. For a visitor it is decidedly inconvenient, as his losses half the day he is anxious to devote to sightseeing. As soon as we could get away we took "chairs" and started on our tour. Crossing the bridge which separates the settlement of Shamen from all things Chinese we passed the Custom House, and were soon upon that wretched scene of desolation, the site of the Old Foreign Factories, burnt down and destroyed in 1857. There they are, untouched and unheeded, nothing but the foundations and roofs remaining to shew their whereabouts. Although the locality is a most desirable one, no attempt has been made by the Chinese to build upon it, but the spot remains one of desolation and waste, the resort of vagabondage and disease, and a shoot for filth of every description. The only object which strikes the visitor is an old treasury belonging to one of the houses which stands intact amidst all the ruins, and has been converted into a sort of dead house for those who are perishing of disease or starvation to creep into and die. Crossing this waste we are soon in the hum and tumult of active life and taking the first street to our left, are shortly put down at the establishment of Pohing, dealer in China ware. Pohing is a fussy squint-eyed little man with large spectacles of truly Chinese dimensions. His wares are purely modern, good, and respectable in price. During his absence his son, an idiotic dirty lad, takes charge of the establishment and has a peculiar way of occasionally asking too little for things. This is a fact rare indeed in China, and well worthy of note especially to those who are about to invest. From here we pass on to the establishment of Ushing, whose show is decidedly very superior to Pohing's, but the articles not one iota better and at least three times the price. We congratulate Ushing on the fortune he must be making and decide upon paying Pohing another visit upon our return. We now saunter down Curro Street and visit the ship of Pe-Chan, repeated the best. Close at hand we visit old Yeeching, a polite gentlemanly old man, who promises to inundate us with Silk, Crapet, Shawls and other goods for our selection. Now again into our chairs and off to the Temple of the Five Hundred Gods.

As we draw near to the Temple we suddenly find ourselves in the midst of a gay and motley throng gathered under a sort of canopy overhead, and the entire locality over spread with glass chandeliers, groups of carved figures, fine embroidery, banners, lanterns and what not. The whole seems to form a sort of fancy fair and there is music, dismal and mournful in its tones, issuing from a regular orchestra at one side. It is a religious festival, the "Feast of Lanterns" which appears to be going the rounds, as we come across the same thing repeatedly afterwards, and it continues to be held for a considerable time in different places. It is got up by subscription, but what there is about it that can be tortured into religion it is difficult to say. We do not trouble ourselves much about the Temple but dismounting from our chairs immediately make for the rear of the building where is situated the Hall of the Five Hundred Gods, or as we will rather call them "Worthies."

The first objects which meet our view after the two hideous figures at the doorway are the fat men with lots of little wrinkles creeping about them, who are supposed to be symbolic of everything that is good and happy. Rotundity in China is synonymous with beauty, and it is proverbial that a fat man must be wealthy. Children too are looked upon as the greatest source of happiness. We pass along rows of the hideous creatures which surround the threshold. Many of them bear unmistakable signs of foreign extraction and Marco Polo himself is pointed out amongst them. At the end of the apartment we come upon a venerable figure of the Emperor Kienlong before whom the everlasting Joss sticks burn. The Emperor is the principal object of all their worship; he is the greatest God the Chinese have, but this is the image of the greatest Emperor that ever ruled over China and certainly enough of the one who was most favourable to foreign trade. We

leave the Hall neither particularly struck with its beauty nor with its interest, and think that we must have seen something like it somewhere before.

Not far from this spot used to be the celebrated cat and dog street. I recollect myself visiting this place when it must have been in its zenith. I can aver that at that time I saw dogs roasted whole like sucking pigs, cats like hares and, which upset all my calculations, rats. There were besides cats and dogs confined in cages and being fattened ready for killing. Now there is nothing of the kind, but there are a few savoury stews composed of dogs and if you happen to have lost one within the last few days, perhaps it is indeed dear "Fido" whom you see. With regard to rats there are plenty of them to be seen dried and flattened out at the present day in nearly every poultre's establishment you pass.

We are now carried under an open gateway into a square with a formidable

archway before us. There are four huge figures under this, as in the case of the Temple at Honam, and the God of death is not only placarded with pictures, but the whole place is crowded with wretched looking outcasts covered with diseases, who lie out many hours each day to earn his favor. This is the great Temple of Longevity, the largest in Canton. In its general appointments it is simply a repetition of that of Honam, but not on so large a scale. The only new marked feature in it is a figure of Noah, whom the Chinese call the Father of old age, or Longevity. Old age is almost worshipped by the Chinese, and the code of respect which is due to it is something truly beautiful. An aged Chinese himself is however any thing but beautiful. He always conveys to me the idea of a hoary old miscreant. When leaving this Temple, enter a doorway on your right, and you will find a garden in which are preserved innumerable Gold Fish. These Fish have very singular tails, supposed to embody the principle of the screw in Naval Architecture, which has thus lain dormant for so many centuries.

Hitherto we have been merely travelling in the suburbs. We now start for the city itself. On our way we request our guides to point out every object of interest we may pass. We are introduced to Tea houses, filled with groups of thirsty Chinese, the majority of them dirty as the place itself; and in nooks at every open space and corner stalls are erected at which comediables of the most dainty description are exposed for sale. Little cups of soup or savoury cakes, very like "Brown Windsor," seem much in favour. The streets themselves are like narrow alleys, varying from four to six feet in width and seldom more. They are hung out with painted sign boards, the names of the various shops, and have a very peccat appearance to a stranger. The shops are all open, having more the appearance of a bazaar than a street, and the thoroughfare is so crowded that it is almost impossible to get along. The wealthy are born in sedan chairs carried by two coolies who, stepping along at a quick pace, clear the way by exclamations and shouts. The pavement is composed of rough granite slabs, very loose and irregular and beneath is a filthy gutter the receptacle of every abomination. In some of the bye streets are nasty dirty little houses devoted to opium smoking, and in others gambling houses. There is nothing whatever attractive about these dens—quite the reverse—but they are interesting to strangers as being the haunts of the two greatest vices peculiar to the people. With the Chinese the mania for gambling is something extraordinary. Every vendor in the public streets carries with him the gambling sticks, and a would-be-purchaser, instead of bargaining for the article he wants, generally pays a stipulated sum for a chance in the great lottery of sweetmeats. It reminds one of the "Wheels of Fortune" at watering places at home, where you may be sure you always get the worst of it.

How different a scene is the Pawnbroker's shop we have just visited. At the back of the establishment is a large square brick tower, with the smallest possible holes for light and ventilation. In height it towers above all the houses and the Pawn-broker's shops are the most conspicuous objects in the panorama of Canton. Inside are some eight stories or tiers in which all the pawned articles are tied up in bundles with a wooden label attached to each, and ranged with the utmost regularity, and order upon shelves throughout the building. The whole is confined by a massive iron door, which closes all appliances Chinese, and tradition says that many of them have huge stones upon the top of the tower ready to throw down upon all would-be intruders. Occasionally we pass barber's shops and witness the operation of shaving, shampooing, and ear-picking, all of which is included in the fee. Conjurers who are clever at their tricks, but not over delicate, in their subjects are constantly met with and stalls with huge spectacled professional letter writers and fortune tellers,—a standing proof of the want of education and the superstition of the lower orders. We pass through the gateway beneath the wall of what is termed the "New City," a sort of suburb of the old one, enclosed within a separate wall. Our guides have taken us to Jade street, a never ending thoroughfare in which nearly every shop is devoted to the sale of the dearly loved Jade of the Chinese, to articles of *ceremony* generally, and also to the well known enamels of Kingfisher's feathers, which are very pretty but somewhat flimsy. In time we reach the South West gate of the city, an enormous pile surrounded by a showy looking building, in which a number of the Braves or Chinese Soldiers are stationed. There is also a party stationed in the guard-houses below, and they lounge about to all intents and purposes like ordinary Chinese coolies with nothing whatever to distinguish them except a sort of emblematical on their blouses when in full costume. We ascend the wall by a flight of steps and obtain an indistinct view of the general features of the city, of which more anon.

#### CHAP. III.

#### INTO THE CITY.

All Chinese Cities of any importance as everybody knows are surrounded with walls of fabulous dimensions. The walls of Canton City are seven miles round, but enclose a space which, while it contains most of the great public buildings and institutions, numbers but a very small proportion of the population. This latter is set down at one million and a half, an estimate which I think is by no means overdrawn, when we consider the vast area which is covered by the Province at midnight of the new year. In the courtyard of the Temple some soldiers practising archery. With customary Chinese politeness they allow us to try our hand at it, and when we break two of their arrows, one after the other, they beg that we will not think anything of it. A little

further and we reach the celebrated Execution Ground.

On this spot that dreadful man Commissioner Feh put to death some 200,000 human beings in the short space of one year. On this spot to this day executions are of constant occurrence, twenty human beings at a time, and horrible tortures are perpetrated. Yet where are the traces and evidences of all this? It is a narrow dirty obscure yard, apparently devoted to the pottery business. There is nothing whatever to show its real character. It may so happen that we find a pitcher full of human heads stowed away in one of the corners: we may find the ground covered with clotted blood, which they have not taken the trouble to wash away, and lying about may be the wooden cross on which some wretched victim has been strangled or tortured, and which has been left about the yard. It may indeed so happen that we witness the horrible sight of some twenty or thirty men kneeling down in a row and their heads flying off like so many poppies one after another as the executioner passes along the row. This may happen and very often does happen to visitors, but upon the present occasion all is peace and tranquillity and there is nothing whatever to show the unshallow nature of the spot. We have heard of pigs having been driven in after an execution to lick up the blood of the wretched victims. It is just the sort of occurrence, which would take place in China. We recollect visiting an execution ground upon one occasion, when the executioner stood gloating over the butchery he was about to perpetrate, and jeeringly drew his fingers along the blade of his sword, while he pointed to the wretched miscreants he was about to slaughter.

We are now descend from the wall, and continue our route along the main street in which we were previously. Bearing to the left and turning down a few streets we are soon set down at the Temple of the Five Genii or Rams, from which Canton derives its name. It appears that the Five Genii, for reasons which do not appear, turned themselves into rams, and subsequently into stones, and they are preserved in all three forms in this temple. The building was much destroyed by fire lately, but the great bell, which is one of the most prominent objects in Canton and conspicuously seen from the wall, still hangs suspended in its tower. It was said of this bell, that as long as it hung there no harm would befall Canton, and it is a curious fact that it was shipped by a shell during the bombardment.

The Nam-hoy Court House and Prison are close at hand and are the next objects of interest. A huge dragon is painted upon the wall opposite, the usual emblem of a Civil Mandarinate, and a somewhat appropriate one I fear. In all other respects it is difficult for a stranger to distinguish between the residence of a Mandarin, a Court of Justice, a Temple of Worship or any other public building. They are all perfectly alike in architecture and in their general features. Many years ago when Canton was in our hands I went over the Nam-hoy prison with a friend and a more horrible sight it is impossible to conceive. The prisoners looked like wild men. Their hair and their faces unshaven, some of them for many years, their bodies uncleaned except by a small rag about their loins, loathsome from disease, vermin and dirt, and squadd from starvation and neglect. Their hair grew up stiff and bristling from their heads, and hung about them like huge mane, and many of them had still the putrefying remains of unwashed and uncleaned for wounds, which had been inflicted upon them by the cruellest tortures. They were all in chains and there was not one amongst them whose countenance did not betoken that death itself would be a relief from such misery. There is an objection now to Europeans intruding into these sanctified spots. It is considered that we have no right to interfere with Chinese Justice and that its demerits are best shut out from our observation. In the street opposite the temple we have been merely travelling in the suburbs. We now start for the city itself. On our way we request our guides to point out every object of interest we may pass. We are introduced to Tea houses, filled with groups of thirsty Chinese, the majority of them dirty as the place itself; and in nooks at every open space and corner stalls are erected at which comediables of the most dainty description are exposed for sale. Little cups of soup or savoury cakes, very like "Brown Windsor," seem much in favour. The streets themselves are like narrow alleys, varying from four to six feet in width and seldom more. They are hung out with painted sign boards, the names of the various shops, and have a very peccat appearance to a stranger. The shops are all open, having more the appearance of a bazaar than a street, and the thoroughfare is so crowded that it is almost impossible to get along. The wealthy are born in sedan chairs carried by two coolies who, stepping along at a quick pace, clear the way by exclamations and shouts. The pavement is composed of rough granite slabs, very loose and irregular and beneath is a filthy gutter the receptacle of every abomination. In some of the bye streets are nasty dirty little houses devoted to opium smoking, and in others gambling houses. There is nothing whatever attractive about these dens—quite the reverse—but they are interesting to strangers as being the haunts of the two greatest vices peculiar to the people. With the Chinese the mania for gambling is something extraordinary. Every vendor in the public streets carries with him the gambling sticks, and a would-be-purchaser, instead of bargaining for the article he wants, generally pays a stipulated sum for a chance in the great lottery of sweetmeats. It reminds one of the "Wheels of Fortune" at watering places at home, where you may be sure you always get the worst of it.

The Mahometan Mosque, the old minaret of which is one of the most prominent objects as you approach Canton, is situated in this neighbourhood, but there is nothing particularly interesting about it, save the fact of its existence and that of some fifteen hundred worshippers of the Prophet. Some distance further in the same direction is the old Pagoda also prominently associated with the destinies of Canton now fast falling into decay and leaning in a most threatening manner. The greatest age I have heard assigned to it is two thousand four hundred years, but I do not think it is any thing at all approaching such antiquity. Opposite are the extensive Yamen and Gardens of the Tartar General or Commander-in-Chief, now Acting Governor General of the Two Provinces and here also resides the English Consul, Mr. Brooke Robertson, c.b. In the distance at the further extremity of the city is situated the picturesque group of hills called "the Heights," covered all over with terraces of Temples, which the great Commissioner Yeh was building at the time of his capture and that of the city, and which came in most opportunity for barracks for our troops. There are still some three officers and twenty men stationed here, ostensibly and actually instructing Chinese troops in European drill, but no doubt also with the intention of keeping before the native mandarins the remembrance and the moral effect of our late occupation. Close at hand upon the wall is situated a large square Guard house, similar to those erected over each of the gates called the "Five Storied Pagoda" from its being five stories high. From the summit of this building a fine view of the city and suburbs of Canton and of the surrounding country is to be obtained on a clear day, and it well repays one for the trouble of its ascent. The City walls stretching along in their irregular course have much the appearance of a gigantic serpent and remind one of the pictures of the great wall of China, which used to astonish us so much in our youthful days.

We now start for the 4th, being Wong Mew" or "People's Temple" a place which is always crowded, and not with the most agreeable companions. As we enter the courtyard of the sacred edifice, the place has more the appearance of a fair. Hosts of idlers lounge about, stalls are erected on every side and anxious vendors are shouting about the advantages of their wares. A little gambling, fortune telling and professional letter writing are going on, and barbers are publicly plying their vocation. In the Temple an old woman may be seen with lighted joss-sticks or pastilles falling down before one of the huge wooden images. There are plenty of them at it in different parts of the building. Others are taking their chance at the fortune sticks and the priest is giving them little bits of paper with the "good words" upon them, and they pay their fees and go away quite happy and satisfied. All round the courtyard are little chambers containing groups of figures called the "Buddhist Hell," or the punishment of the wicked after death. Some of these are of the most horrible and revolting description, and are too faithfully representations of the dreadful tortures perpetrated by Chinese Justice upon the living.

The Examination Hall, where the public competitive examinations for the civil service take place once in every three years, is situated close under the wall in the South East corner of the city. It comprises a vast area of ground which is covered with rows of little cellars about four feet square which are the studios assigned to the literary candidates, and which exist to the number of over eight thousand. Ascending the wall at this point we pass the Prefectural College, a showy building on our right, and on our left outside the old city walls is situated the Emperor's Temple, where that deity is annually publicly worshipped by the Viceroy and all the high officials of the Province at midnight of the new year. In the courtyard of the Temple some soldiers practise archery. With customary Chinese politeness they allow us to try our hand at it, and when we break two of their arrows, one after the other, they beg that we will not think anything of it. A little

further and we reach the celebrated Execution Ground.

On this spot that dreadful man Commissioner Feh put to death some 200,000 human beings in the short space of one year. On this spot to this day executions are of constant occurrence, twenty human beings at a time, and horrible tortures are perpetrated. Yet where are the traces and evidences of all this? It is a narrow dirty obscure yard, apparently devoted to the pottery business. There is nothing whatever to show its real character. It may so happen that we find a pitcher full of human heads stowed away in one of the corners: we may find the ground covered with clotted blood, which they have not taken the trouble to wash away, and lying about may be the wooden cross on which some wretched victim has been strangled or tortured, and which has been left about the yard.

I must conclude this sketch of my visit to the "City of Rams" by assuring my friends that wherever they go in the neighbourhood of Canton, they may consider themselves perfectly safe, and that they will meet with nothing but civility on all sides. Should they have reason to suppose that rudeness is intended they must not resent it, but pass on without noticing it. I would caution them to drop that domineering bullying demeanour which Europeans think it necessary to assume with Chinese, at any rate for the time being. Those who get into difficulties have usually themselves alone to thank for it.

#### THE USANCE OF BILLS.

The Friend of India, Sept. 13, contains the subjoined remarks in reference to the announced change in the usance of Bills, as it will be felt by the Eastern trade:

The question of a four or six months usance of bills seems to have been too hastily decided by the Exchange Banks in London, if the rule limiting the usance to four months applied only to the growing trade overland it would be unexceptionable. But the simplest calculation will show that six months is just sufficient to cover the time which elapses between the putting of goods on board in one port and their final arrival at their destination in the warehouses. Certainly, even if no allowance be made for accidents, five months is too short a time.

The only result of the new rule, in the case of Cape ships, is likely to be the crippling of trade. There is another view of the question which confirms this conclusion. All authorities have agreed that the monetary crisis which has hardly yet passed away was due to a want of credit and not of capital, winding up with a somewhat noisy supper.

The singing girls are many of them very nice looking, and are doubtless more prized for their beauty than for their accomplishments or their virtue. They are highly painted and got up and they are accompanied in their vocal operations by music of a primitive and monotonous character.

The entertainers cause themselves by lounging about, drinking tea and samsoon, smoking tobacco or opium and a little occasional chaff with the fair vocalists, who assume a certain amount of coyness for the occasion, but are sadly wanting in that general refinement, which is the greatest charm and grace of their sex.

#### CHAP. IV.

#### PUNTINGQUA'S AND THE FA-TEE GARDENS.

There is no doubt that for a long pull of three quarters of an hour on the water the evening would have been the most agreeable time, but to view gardens to advantage they should be seen while the sun is upon them. We therefore started the following day soon after breakfast for Puntingqua's Gardens, and after a long pull up the river and through a very pretty creek bordered by grotesque cedar trees we reached them and found a number of Mandarin galas boats had preceded us. These gardens are the private property of a wealthy man, a high Mandarin, and one of the Salt Commissioners of the Empire. By the courtesy of Puntingqua they are at all times open to Europeans, who do not fail to avail themselves of any cause of his politeness. It is a peculiar feature in a Chinese garden that most things as "bowed beds" are unknown. All the plants are in pots, and there are after all comparatively speaking but few flowers. Avenues of shrubs, dwarfed and of the most grotesque shapes, artificial rockeries, alcoves, lakes abounding in the admirable Lotus, picture bridges and terraces, being the most prominent features. The whole has the most pleasing and original effect, quite dissipating the idea of a garden, and leaving us as it were in a dream. Situated upon the borders of the lake are numerous summer houses which at night are gaily illuminated and in one of these Puntingqua and his friends were at the moment feasting. They are furnished in the most expensive manner with "black wood" or ebony furniture surrounded by marble tops. Terraces continue all round the garden in every direction and the walls are covered with quotations from Confucius and other writers in a most elaborate manner. In one part is a very picturesque island with a pagoda upon it reached by beautiful terraces of rockery abounding in summer houses and alcoves. In another is situated the great theatre, an extravagantly built up building capable of accommodating an infinite number of guests and with sleeping apartments and opium saloons upstairs. In this the easement cupboards are remarkable and the curious arms, gongs and an old model of a steamship to be found upon the stage are worth observing. The seats of strangely shaped stones which are to be seen



